



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

BURGH OF KILMARNOCK.

REPORT

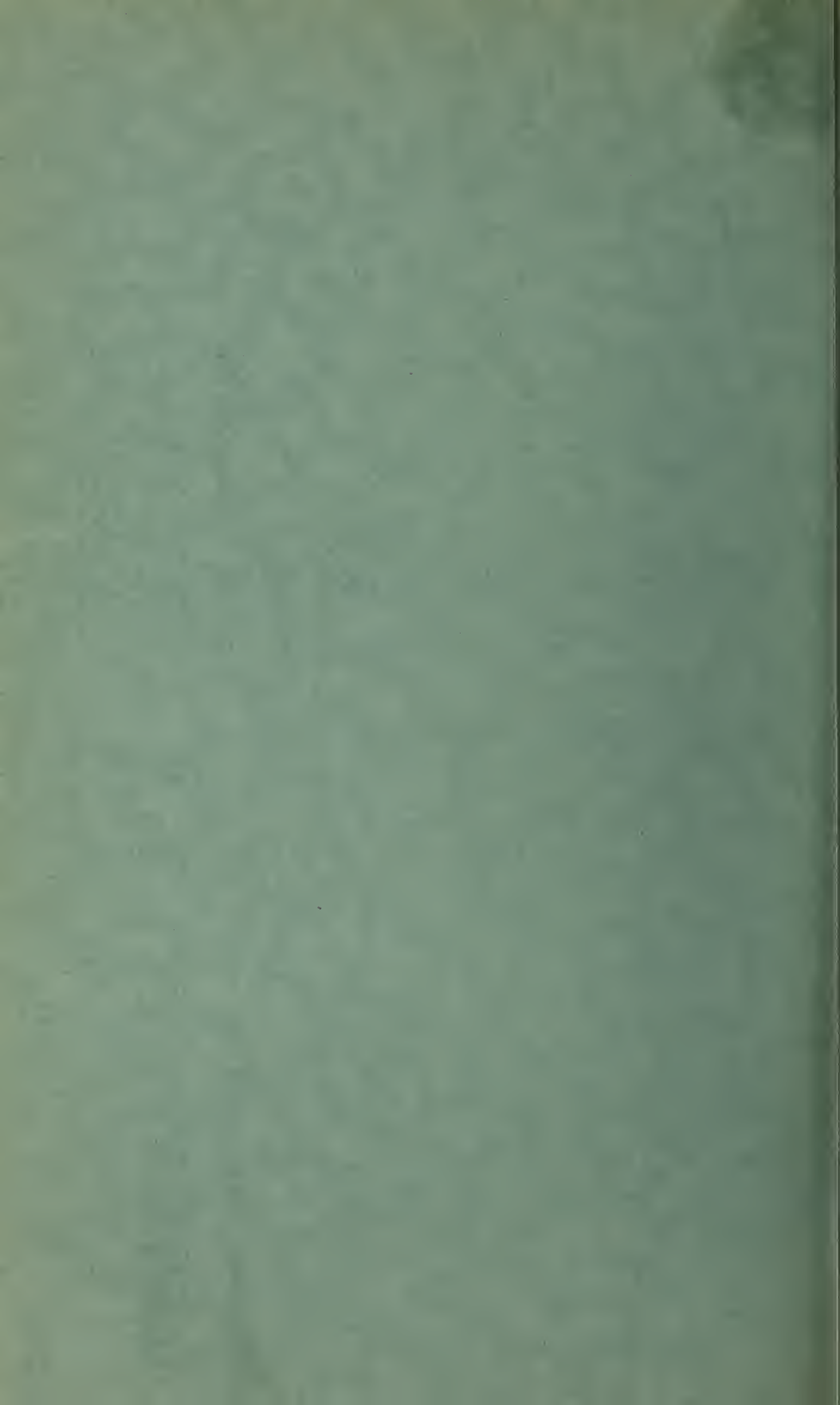
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1951.

KILMARNOCK:
THE KILMARNOCK STANDARD, LTD.
1952.



BURGH OF KILMARNOCK.

REPORT

UPON THE

Health of Kilmarnock

FOR THE

YEAR 1951

BY

BRYCE R. NISBET, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
KILMARNOCK,
AUGUST, 1952.

To the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Burgh of Kilmarnock,
and to the Department of Health for Scotland.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Burgh of Kilmarnock for the year 1951.

For the second year in succession there has been no case of Diphtheria, and there has been no death from the disease in the town during the past six years.

The question of the closer co-ordination of the Health and Welfare Departments was under consideration on a number of occasions during the year, and this has now been established.

The Convener and Members of the Public Health Committee and Sub-Committees are to be thanked for supporting, during the year, an active health policy. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the help that has been received by me from the Assistant Medical Officer, the members of the Public Health clerical and nursing staffs, the Sanitary Department and other Officials of the town, the general practitioners and the hospital authorities.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

BRYCE R. NISBET,

Medical Officer of Health.

BURGH OF KILMARNOCK.

Constitution of Committees as at 31st December, 1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Convener—COUNCILLOR G. COLLINS.

Also Convener of General Health Services Sub-Committee and of Baths Sub-Committee.

PROVOST A. M. CLARK.

BAILIE R. H. BANKS.

BAILIE MRS. A. GIBSON.

BAILIE J. C. CAMPBELL.

BAILIE R. J. KENNEDY.

TREASURER H. A. MACKINTOSH.

DEAN OF GUILD H. McLELLAND.

POLICE-JUDGE D. CAIRNS.

COUNCILLORS MRS. F. E. ROME, *Convener of Cemeteries Sub-Committee.*

W. WESTBURY, *Convener of Cleansing and Slaughterhouse Sub-Committee.*

J. L. GIBSON.

STAFF.

BRYCE R. NISBET, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), D.P.H.—*Medical Officer of Health.*

NAIRN R. COWAN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H.—*Assistant Medical Officer of Health.*
(Resigned 12/3/51).

J. M. BOYD, M.B., Ch.B.—*Assistant Medical Officer of Health* (Temporary).
(Appointed 9/4/51; Resigned 22/6/51).

G. FIDES M. BRAID, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.—*Assistant Medical Officer of Health*
(Appointed 26/6/51).

DAY AND RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES.

Matron—Miss J. DOAK.

HEALTH VISITORS.

* † † Miss H. P. CAMERON (Resigned 15/3/51).

* † † Miss W. KELLAS (Resigned 15/4/51).

* † † Miss J. LAING (Appointed 3/12/51).

a † † † Miss M. A. McCALLUM.

* † † Miss D. MACDONALD (Appointed 3/12/51).

* † † Miss I. MacKENZIE.,

* † † Miss C. M. B. McLEOD

(Resigned 15/9/51).

* † † Miss M. A. ROBERTSON.

b † † † Miss L. K. ROSSA
(Appointed 2/4/51).

* State Registered Nurse.

† Certificate of Central Midwives' Board.

‡ Health Visitors' Certificate.

a Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

b Midwifery Teachers' Diploma.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

MISS GRACE W. GIBSON.

MISS ELIZABETH COWAN.

HOME NURSES.

MISS M. THOMSON.

MISS C. CAMPBELL (Resigned 28/2/51).

MISS I. WARNER.

MISS A. SMITH.

MISS D. GILL.

MISS D. MacINNES (Appointed 23/2/51).

CLERICAL STAFF.

MISS E. S. GILLESPIE, *Chief Clerical Assistant.*

MISS J. B. KEDDIE.

MISS E. F. LOVE (Resigned 15/4/51).

MISS E. S. GEMMELL (Resigned 15/1/51).

MISS M. NEIL.

MISS A. CONNOR (Appointed 19/2/51).

MISS M. BOWIE (Appointed 9/7/51).

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE BURGH OF KILMARNOCK FOR THE YEAR 1951.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1951.

Area of the Burgh	3739·4 Acres
Population (Estimated to middle of 1951)	42,209
Population Density	11·2 per Acre

	Corrected Numbers.			Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Births (including Illegitimate)	369	367	736	17·4
Births (Illegitimate)	17	18	35	4·8 *
Still-Births	11	12	23	30 **
Deaths—All Causes	263	234	497	11·8 †
Tuberculosis (All Forms)	9	6	15	0·36
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	8	6	14	0·33
Principal Epidemic Diseases	9	7	16	0·38
Children under one year	20	14	34	46 ***
Children under one month	10	11	21	29
Maternal Deaths	—	2	2	2·7 **

* Rate per 100 Live-Births.

** Rate per 1,000 Births (including Still-Births).

*** Rate per 1,000 Births.

† Rate adjusted for Sex and Age Distribution—12·7.

BIRTHS.

The rate this year, 17·4 per thousand of the population, although higher than the figure for last year (1950), is below the average for the last five years. The rate for Scotland was 17·7. The town ranks thirteenth of the twenty-four principal towns in the country.

In the report for the war years 1941-45 the male births as a percentage of the total births for the six years prior to the last war were compared with the six war years. It has now been possible to add the figures for the six years since the cessation of hostilities, and these are set forth below with the others for comparison.

	Male Births.	Female Births.	Male Births as Percentage of Total Births.
1934-39	2396	2203	52·1
1940-45	2226	2135	51·0
1946-51	2451	2361	50·9

It will be noted that the trend during the war years has been continued.

Analysis of the figures for 1951 on the same lines as for the previous two years shows :—

First Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255
Second Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	224
Third Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Fourth Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Fifth Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sixth Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Subsequent Births—Seventh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

The following table gives information as to the ages of mothers and also the infantile deaths and mortality rates by age group :—

	<i>Mothers.</i>	<i>Infantile Deaths.</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate.</i>
Under 20 Years	21	—	—
Under 25 Years	216	17	78·7
Under 30 Years	203	8	39·4
Under 35 Years	173	5	28·9
Under 40 Years	93	2	21·5
Under 45 Years	23	1	43·47
Under 50 Years	5	1	200

The youngest mother's age was 16 and the oldest 47.

ILLEGITIMACY.

The town, with a rate of 4·8 illegitimate births per 100, again occupies a position about mid-way among the principal towns. The rate is further evidence that the position is becoming stabilised after the rise in the war years.

STILL-BIRTHS.

Twenty-three still-births were notified during the year, giving a rate of 30 per thousand births, which is disappointingly high. In only six of the principal towns was the rate higher. The causes were as follows, the classification being based on Table 29 of the Infantile Mortality in Scotland Report, 1943.

HAZARDS OF BIRTH.	PRE-EXISTING AT BIRTH.
Difficult Labour—	Foetal Deformity 6
Torsion of Cord... .. —	Antepartum Haemorrhage—
Prolapse of Cord —	Placenta Praevia —
Malpresentation 2	Accidental Haemorrhage —
Pelvic Deformity 1	Toxaemia 2
Prolonged Labour and Uterine	Chronic Disease of the Mother ... 1
Inertia 1	Ill Defined—
Injury at Birth... .. —	Debility —
Other Specified Causes —	Atelectasis —
Ill Defined—	Macerated Foetus 8
Asphyxia —	Prematurity 1
	Erythroblastosis 1
	—
	4
	19

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In 1951 34 babies died under the age of one year, giving a rate of 46 per thousand births. The rate, whilst not yet satisfactory, is less than the average for the past five years. The main causes of death were :—

	<i>Neo-Natal</i> (under 1 Month).	<i>Post-Natal</i> (1-12 Months).
Prematurity	8	—
Infections	2	11
Foetal Deformities	5	1
Birth Haemorrhage	2	—
Asphyxia	—	1
Ill Defined Causes	3	1

DEATHS.

497 deaths were registered in 1951, 44 less than last year. The death rate was 11·8 per thousand of the population.

Causes of Death.

Infectious and Contagious Diseases.—There were 16 such deaths classified under this heading. Fifteen of these were due to the influenza epidemic early in the year and the other was due to whooping cough. In addition to these 16 deaths one death was credited to Acute Poliomyelitis and one to another infection. It should be noted that while the whooping cough death was in an infant, of the influenza deaths only one was at an age less than 65 years. There was again no death from diphtheria during the year.

Tuberculosis.—There were 14 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and one from other forms. It should be noted that all but two of these deaths were again in persons *under* the age of 45 years. The tuberculosis rate—0·36 per thousand of the estimated population—showed some increase over the rate for the previous year.

Deaths Classified According to System Affected.

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Average Age at Death.</i>
(1) Diseases of the Circulatory System	179	69
(2) Diseases of the Nervous System	72	63
(3) Cancer	68	65
(4) Diseases of the Respiratory System	42	62
(5) Diseases of the Digestive System	24	59
(6) Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	14	35
(7) Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	8	70

The following diagrams set forth the deaths in the years 1931, 1941 and 1951, and the object of doing so is that a ready comparison may be made between these years. In each case the deaths are indicated according to age group and interesting differences are to be noted. Whilst the deaths are almost equal in numbers for the three years, the death rate has been steadily diminishing. An interesting point is noted that whereas

Age at Death
(in years)

1931

Number of Deaths

85 and over

75 - 84

65 - 74

55 - 64

45 - 54

35 - 44

25 - 34

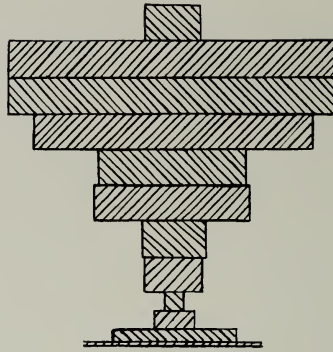
15 - 24

10 - 14

5 - 9

1 - 4

0 - 1



Total 503

Population - 38,229. Death Rate - 13.2. Percentage over 65 years - 40.2.

1941

85 and over

75 - 84

65 - 74

55 - 64

45 - 54

35 - 44

25 - 34

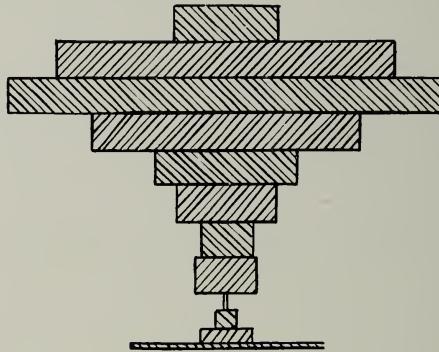
15 - 24

10 - 14

5 - 9

1 - 4

0 - 1



Total 496

Population-39,800. Death Rate - 12.5. Percentage over 65 years - 50.0.

1951

85 and over

75 - 84

65 - 74

55 - 64

45 - 54

35 - 44

25 - 34

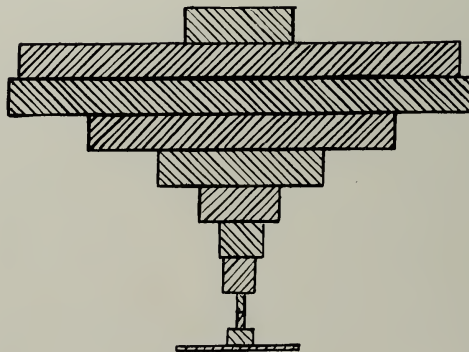
15 - 24

10 - 14

5 - 9

1 - 4

0 - 1



Total 497

Population - 42,209. Death Rate - 11.8. Percentage over 65 years - 56.5.

only some 40% of deaths in the population occurred at 65 and upwards in 1931, this proportion had increased to 50% in 1941 and is now over 56%. Comparing these diagrams it is obvious that the bulk of the deaths are taking place at later age groups than formerly. The first change to be noted between 1931 and 1941 was a great improvement in the number of toddler deaths, *i.e.*, the 1 to 4 age group, and to a lesser extent the 5-14 group. The main change noted, in addition to the general ageing, between 1941 and 1951, was the great reduction of infant mortality and the further reduction in the 1-15 age groups.

The following remarks relate to a few of the well-known causes of death, and give some fuller details of how the numbers in each group have varied over the past 21 years. The groups selected for this special local study were :—

- (1) Cancer of the Lung.
- (2) Cancer of the Stomach.
- (3) Coronary Thrombosis.
- (4) Valvular Heart Disease.
- (5) Tuberculosis.

1. **Cancer of the Lung.**—The following table sets forth the figures in seven-year periods :—

Cancer of the Lung.

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 +		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1931-37	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	4	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	13	4	17
1938-44	—	—	1	—	3	—	4	—	11	3	3	5	1	—	1	—	24	8	32
1945-51	1	—	1	—	2	—	12	2	14	1	4	5	—	1	—	—	34	9	43

It will be seen that that this condition is three times as common in males as in females, and the differential incidence is tending to increase.

The condition as a whole was two and a half times as common in the last seven-year period under review as compared with the first. The incidence is now by far the greatest in males of the age groups 45-64, having become relatively more common in the earlier half of this age group in the last seven-year period. The age group of maximum incidence in females was 65-74.

The average age at death in males has become reduced from 59 years in the first period to 55 in the third : for females, it has tended to rise from 55 to 63 over the same periods.

Taking the average to which a person can reasonably hope to live as 70, the number of years of life "lost" through premature deaths due to the condition in the first period was 206. In the second period this had risen to 388 and in the third period to 619.

Classifying the deaths according to the Registrar's Social groups :—(1) Professional, etc. ; (2) Intermediate between (1) and (3) ; (3) Skilled Workers ; (4) Intermediate between (3) and (5) ; (5) Unskilled Workers—the findings are :—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
Male.....	2	10	28	17	14	71
Female	—	7	10	4	—	21
Total.....	2	17	38	21	14	92

2. **Cancer of the Stomach.**—The following table sets forth the figures for the three seven-year periods :—

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 +		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1931-37	1	—	—	—	1	2	10	3	13	17	15	19	4	15	—	1	44	57	101
1938-44	—	—	1	—	3	1	8	3	10	11	12	18	3	10	1	1	38	44	82
1945-51	—	—	—	3	1	1	12	3	15	8	13	11	10	19	—	1	51	46	97

This is a commoner condition than cancer of the lung, 282 deaths being caused by it, as compared with 92 over the same period. There has not been any apparent increase ; in fact, there was some decrease during the War years. The increase in the number of deaths in the third period over the second is due mainly to more fatalities in the 75-84 age group. Unlike cancer of the lung, the condition is as common in females as in males.

The following table shows the deaths classified according to Social class :—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
Male	2	17	66	22	26	133
Female	3	14	75	25	30	147
Total	5	31	141	47	56	280

There is no marked difference between the class distribution for cancer of the stomach and cancer of the lung.

The average age at death in both males and females has remained almost the same in the three seven-year periods—varying between 61, 61 and 63 in males and 68, 67 and 68 in females.

The number of years of life “lost” through early death from cancer of the stomach in the first period was 736, 653 in the second and 741 in the third. It will be noted that in addition to an increase in numbers in the third period over the second, there is also a considerable increase in years of life “lost.”

3. **Coronary Thrombosis.**—This table again sets forth the findings grouped in seven-year periods :—

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85 +		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1931-37	1	—	—	—	5	3	13	5	26	10	34	20	16	10	2	5	97	53	150
1938-44	1	—	2	—	3	6	24	5	37	22	61	41	26	23	3	3	157	100	257
1945-51	—	—	—	—	10	2	42	6	57	49	75	55	25	36	3	3	212	151	363

This condition continues to be commoner in males than in females, but the difference in incidence appears to be lessening. Over the 21-year period, deaths in males have rather more than doubled, whereas those in females have almost trebled. In males, there has been a two-fold increase in the 35-44 age group and the other main age groups and a three and a half-fold increase in the 45-54 age group. In women the main increase has been later in life—from 55 years onwards.

The average age at death was just over 65 years. For males the age at death was on the average four years less than that for females, although there has been little change in the average age of death in the three seven-year periods. The number of years lost has increased more than 50% from the first to the second period and again from the second to the third, the actual figures being 1039 years in the first period, 1660 years in the second period and 2553 years in the third period.

The position with regard to Social Class is set forth below :—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
Male	20	85	254	60	47	466
Female.....	6	51	164	45	38	304
Total	26	136	418	105	85	770

4. Valvular Disease of the Heart.—This certification is obviously a composite one. Some are undoubtedly congenital heart conditions and only a limited number of rheumatic origin. The figures found are set out below :—

	0-4		5-9		10-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1931-37.....	—	1	4	2	2	—	5	8	1	8	6	7	6	12
1938-44.....	—	1	2	1	1	—	2	7	1	6	4	1	10	8
1945-51.....	—	—	—	4	1	2	7	3	4	6	6	12	3	12

55-64		65-74		75-84		84 +		Total.		Grand Total.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
14	16	13	13	5	12	—	1	56	80	136
9	10	8	7	4	10	—	—	41	51	92
9	5	6	8	4	5	—	2	40	59	99

It shows that there are less cases now than twenty years ago, ^{and} but the overall picture has now improved steadily. For the third period the figures are not so small as for the second. There appears to have been a deterioration in later years in the middle age periods.

If we presume as rheumatic, those deaths between the ages of 10 and 35, the figures for the three periods are respectively 24, 17 and 23.

The years of life "lost" in the three periods are 2646, 1762 and 2312 respectively.

In again considering the Social Class the following are the findings :—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
Male	3	9	64	22	39	137
Female.....	2	14	100	32	42	190
Total	5	23	164	54	81	327

5. **Tuberculosis.**—The following table sets forth the findings of this disease :—

	Under 1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-24		25-34	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1931-37.....	3	6	8	8	1	3	2	6	21	22	11	15
1938-44.....	1	1	3	4	2	4	3	4	15	30	20	16
1945-51.....	1	1	4	3	2	3	1	1	7	20	11	14

35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +		Total		Grand Total.
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
14	9	12	6	12	4	6	3	90	82	172
20	5	13	3	9	—	6	3	92	70	162
14	16	7	3	7	1	5	4	59	66	125

In total there has been a steady diminution in number of deaths from this disease. During the middle period deaths in young women increased, but the figure is again falling. During the twenty-one years there has been a steady decrease in the number of deaths in young men.

As is well-known many deaths from this cause cut down life in the earlier years, and it is not surprising to find that no less than 7,033 years of life was "lost" in the first period, 6,283 in the second and 4,695 in the third. The only favourable indication is that the yearly losses are steadily decreasing.

In considering the Social Class the following are the findings :—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total.
Male	6	15	104	32	84	241
Female.....	2	9	98	38	71	218
Total	8	24	202	70	155	459

SUMMARY.

Appended are some of the main findings in a form that allows of comparison.

Number of Deaths.

	<i>Cancer of Lung.</i>	<i>Cancer of Stomach.</i>	<i>Coronary Throm- bosis.</i>	<i>Valvular Disease of Heart.</i>	<i>Tuber- culosis.</i>
First Period.....	17	101	150	136	172
Second Period.....	32	82	257	92	162
Third Period	43	97	363	99	125
Total.....	92	280	770	327	459

Average Age at Death.

	<i>Cancer of Lung.</i>	<i>Cancer of Stomach.</i>	<i>Coronary Throm- bosis.</i>	<i>Valvular Disease of Heart.</i>	<i>Tuber- culosis.</i>
First Period.....	58.3	64.9	65.4	52.0	30.0
Second Period.....	59.5	63.9	55.9	52.3	31.2
Third Period	56.5	65.6	65.5	47.9	32.8
Total.....	57.7	65.1	65.6	50.8	31.2

Loss of Life.

	<i>Cancer of Lung.</i>	<i>Cancer of Stomach.</i>	<i>Coronary Throm- bosis.</i>	<i>Valvular Disease of Heart.</i>	<i>Tuber- culosis.</i>
First Period.....	206	736	1039	2646	7033
Second Period.....	388	653	1660	1762	6283
Third Period	619	741	2553	2312	4695
Total.....	1213	2130	5252	6720	18011

Social Class (Percentages).

	1	2	3	4	5
Cancer of Lung—					
First Period.....	—	17·6	47·1	23·5	11·8
Second Period.....	3·1	28·1	34·4	25·0	9·4
Third Period.....	2·4	11·6	44·2	20·9	20·9
Total.....	2·2	18·5	41·3	22·8	15·2
Cancer of Stomach—					
First Period.....	—	12·8	43·6	21·8	21·8
Second Period.....	3·6	6·1	52·4	15·9	22·0
Third Period.....	2·1	13·4	55·6	12·4	16·5
Total.....	1·8	11·1	50·3	16·8	20·0
Coronary Thrombosis—					
First Period.....	4·0	18·0	51·3	12·7	14·0
Second Period.....	3·1	16·8	56·8	13·6	9·7
Third Period.....	3·3	18·2	53·7	14·1	10·7
Total.....	3·4	17·7	54·3	13·6	11·0
Valvular Disease of the Heart					
First Period.....	—	7·3	54·4	17·0	21·3
Second Period.....	1·1	7·6	47·8	22·8	20·7
Third Period.....	4·0	6·1	46·5	10·1	33·3
Total.....	1·5	7·0	50·2	16·5	24·8
Tuberculosis—					
First Period.....	1·7	3·5	45·4	12·2	37·2
Second Period.....	1·3	5·5	48·8	14·8	29·6
Third Period.....	2·4	7·2	36·0	20·0	34·4
Total.....	1·7	5·2	44·0	15·6	33·8

Maternal Deaths.

After two years with no maternal deaths it is regrettable to have to report that two such deaths occurred in 1951. Both followed abortion, one from sepsis and the other from haemorrhage. The question of interference with pregnancy has of late been causing concern to the Department.

Violence.

There were 22 deaths during the year classified as violence. Of that number 4 were due to motor accidents. Of the 4 one was a child of four years, 2 were youths and one was aged 31 years. With regard to the other forms of violence there were 4 deaths from

drowning—ages 1½, 11, 40 and 64 years ; 3 from burns—ages 71, 75 and 79 years ; 3 from fracture of the skull and multiple injuries—ages 46, 55 and 61 years ; one from fracture of the spine—age 22 years ; 2 from asphyxia—one a child of 3 years from eating “ iron ” pills which contained Strychnin, and another aged 3 months, the cause of which was in doubt.

GENERAL SICKNESS.

The following figures are supplied to this Department by the Ministry of National Insurance and refer to the work of their office in the town. The figures include a certain number of illnesses for the County surrounding Kilmarnock, but give a fair indication of the trend of illness during the year :—

Claims to Sickness Benefit.

	<i>Average Number per Week.</i>
January	489
February	244
March... ..	214
April	203
May	164
June	167
July	134
August	121
September... ..	159
October	189
November	198
December	166

It will be seen that there was a large increase above the average in January to be accounted for by the Influenza epidemic, and that on the whole the Summer months have shown a diminution in the number of cases of illness.

1. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

(i) **Antenatal Clinics.**—A Clinic continues to be held under the auspices of the Local Authority in the Central Premises, Green Street, on each Monday afternoon. The number of women attending during the year was 53 and the number of attendances made was 296. The numbers attending have once again diminished. More and more of the antenatal work appears to be becoming centred in the hospital clinics. The Health Visitors and Municipal Midwives continue to do what they can on the educational side of antenatal care.

(ii) **Child Welfare Clinics.**—Two Clinics are provided—one at Green Street and the other in the Longpark area, where on account of alteration to the premises it became necessary to find new accommodation, and the Clinic was transferred to a pre-fabricated house from where the tenants had had to be removed on account of drainage troubles. This prefab has proved a most pleasant and suitable centre, except for the fact that it is not entirely central to the work. The need for a Clinic in the Southern end of the town was being borne in mind during the year, and it was hoped that in the coming year some premises would become available.

259 children under the age of one year and 93 over that age paid first visits to one or other of the Clinics during the year and 729 subsequent visits were recorded.

The conditions recorded were :—

Skin Conditions	39
For Vaccination	80
Malnutrition	4
Digestive Disturbances	40
Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions	31
Rickets	1
Respiratory Infections	36
Enlarged Glands	14
Eye Conditions	32
Other Conditions	39

In addition, at sessions supervised by the Health Visitors themselves, *e.g.*, weighing clinics, there were just over 4,000 attendances.

This opportunity is taken to thank the voluntary workers, Mrs. Blackwood and Mrs. MacDougal for help given during the year at the Central Clinic, and to Mrs. Crooks for her assistance at the Branch Clinic, Longpark.

The following is the position recorded by the Health Visitors with regard to infant feeding of the children visited by them during the year. The report in each case refers to the state of affairs at the end of the third month of life :—

Breast Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Partly Breast Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Artificially Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	363

(iii) **Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937, and Children Act, 1948.**—During the year the Health Visitors continued to act as Visitors under the Children Acts. Cases requiring visiting are reported to the Medical Officer of Health by the Children Officer and reports are furnished to him through the Public Health Department.

(iv) **Dental Care.**—No care under this heading was provided during the year.

(v) **Mother and Baby Homes.**—There is no provision of this kind in the town.

(vi) **Day Nurseries (including 24-Hour Nurseries).**—

Name and Address of Nursery.	No. of Approved Places.		No. of Children on Register at end of Year.		Average Daily Attendances during Year.		Waiting Lists at end of Year.	
	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Hillbank Nursery, Hill Street, Kilmarnock (formerly Hill Street Nursery)	15	25	10	25	8	20	5	4
Flowerbank Nursery, Portland Road, Kilmarnock	18	25	12	27	12	21	5	8
Glebe Nursery, Glebe Road, Kilmarnock	15	25	10	23	10	18	4	5

The waiting-list for Nurseries has been practically non-existent during the year. As was mentioned last year, when the charges went up, it steadily disappeared.

Six Nurses entered for the Nursery Nurses' Examination and all passed.

(vii) **Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes.**—None as such are provided under the Act. Residential provision is included under the previous section.

(viii) **Nursery and Child-Minders' Regulations, 1948.**—No applications were received under either heading during the year.

2. MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

964 live births and 19 still-births, making a total of 983 (as compared with 1,006 last year), occurred during the year in the Burgh. Of this number 901 occurred in the Kilmarnock Maternity Hospital and 82 at home.

The Municipal Midwives attended all 82 of the births and a doctor was present on 20 occasions. The number of confinements taking place at home continues to fall for the reasons noted last year.

All the midwives, both in hospital and in the district, are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia. The midwives carry an apparatus by car to the patients. Forty-five patients received gas and air during the year and 74 received pethidine. The two midwives have each bicycles, but most of the travel is done by the car which is provided for the Service.

Notification of Births Act.—The duty of notifying a birth is placed upon the parents, medical attendant and midwife, and notification must be made within 36 hours of the occurrence of the birth. Only one of the above need notify and the others need not, if they have reason to believe that a notification has already been sent.

The total number of births, including still-births, was 983, being 23 less than last year.

Eighty-two or 8.3% of these occurred in the patients' own homes. 901 or 91.66% occurred in the Maternity Home.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
(a) Number of Births Registered	(Legitimate ...	...	490	416	906
(including Still-Births)	(Illegitimate ...	...	63	19	82
(b) Number of Births Notified	{ Live Births ...	...	...	...	964
	{ Still-Births ...	...	...	...	19
(c) Number attended by Doctors	...	...	...	...	195
Number attended by Midwives	...	...	...	...	713
Number attended by Doctors and Midwives	...	...	...	...	75

3. HEALTH VISITING.

The following table sets forth the visits paid by the Visitors during the year :—

Expectant Mothers.		Children under 1 Year of Age.		Children between the Age of 1 and 5.		Tuberculosis Cases.		Other Cases.		Total Visits Paid.
First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	
47	166	760	5463	553	6028	30	594	390	1395	13,646

During part of 1951 the Health Visiting Service was depleted by resignation and for a time it was under-staffed. Towards the end of the year two new Health Visitors were appointed, districts re-allocated and the work proceeded according to plan. The six Health Visitors are fully occupied, and it is difficult for them to undertake their new duties under the Act. At the moment all that can be done is to continue with the emphasis on the expectant mother, the infant and the child.

It has not been found possible to insert this year an analysis of the work of each Health Visitor according to district, because of the shortage and changes in staff necessitating re-arrangement of districts during the year.

4. HOME NURSING.

391 patients were attended by the Home Nurses during 1951 and a total of 13,727 visits were paid. Of the 391 patients, 313 were attended for the first time.

The bedridden incontinent patients prove very difficult to nurse at home, and during the year, consideration was being given to the possibility of the introduction of a laundry service for such homes, in an attempt to lighten, what at times proves an almost insufferable burden to relatives.

Some particulars of the types of patients attended are appended :—

General nursing care	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Various forms of dressings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Various forms of enemata	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Injections (mainly penicillin)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Analysing the patients requiring general nursing care, the greatest number were suffering from hemiplegia—40. The following lists the other defects for which nursing care was sought :—

Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cardiac conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Disseminated sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Arterial sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fractured femur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

The following table sets out the ages of the 313 new patients :—

	<i>Under 10</i>	<i>11 to 20</i>	<i>21 to 30</i>	<i>31 to 40</i>	<i>41 to 50</i>	<i>51 to 60</i>	<i>61 to 70</i>	<i>71 to 80</i>	<i>81 to 90</i>	<i>Over 90</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male.....	15	4	2	3	11	13	18	47	16	2	131
Female...	3	7	13	18	16	25	36	42	20	2	182
Total...	18	11	15	21	27	38	54	89	36	4	313

5. DOMESTIC HELP.

At the end of the year there were 27 domestic helps employed—8 full-time and 19 part-time. The number of homes for which domestic help was provided during the year was 87, and the average period of assistance was 19 weeks.

With the appointment of a full-time Supervisor of Domestic Helps in October, it was felt at the end of the year that the Service had been greatly improved, as it was then possible to devote more time to the supervision and careful placing of the domestic helps.

The amount of wages paid to Domestic Helps during the calendar year was £2,449 15s 6d.

The following is a summary of the types of applicant for whom domestic helps were supplied :—

Elderly and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Illness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Blind	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Before taking up duty in a home where there was tuberculosis, domestic helps were tuberculin-tested, proved Mantoux positive, and clear on X-ray examination of the chest.

6. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination.—During the year primary vaccinations were carried out on 555 occasions and re-vaccination on 388 occasions. During the year there was no Smallpox scare and so the numbers are very much less than for 1950.

The relative numbers vaccinated were :—

	<i>Primary.</i>	<i>Re-Vaccination.</i>
(1) By Private Doctors	247	187
(2) At Local Authority Clinics	308	201

Immunisation.

(a) **Diphtheria.**—584 children were immunised during the year—220 by private practitioners and 364 by the Health Department staff. The usual material used was again two doses of 0.5 cc. P.T.A.P. at monthly intervals. 210 children received boosting doses. During the year 1951, 589 children were Post-Schick tested.

(b) **Whooping Cough.**—Again during 1951 some vaccination against Whooping Cough was carried out. During most of the year an alum precipitated vaccine was used, but towards the end of the year a new suspended vaccine which, according to the Medical Research Council trials, gave such improved results was tried. The number of children treated at the Clinics was as follows :—

Age under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Age 1 and under 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Age 2 and under 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Age 3 and under 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Age 4 and under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

These figures do not take into account the work done by general practitioners in this connection.

VACCINATION, 1951.

Return for Period 1st January, 1951, to 31st December, 1951.

Year of Birth of Persons.	Number of Persons Primarily Vaccinated during Period.				Number of Persons Re-Vaccinated during Period.				Number of Persons Specially Reported during Period Because of Actual or Alleged Complication of Vaccination.
	Typical Vaccinia Greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Reaction 5th-7th Day	Reaction Greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No Local Reaction.	Typical Vaccinia Greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Reaction 5th-7th Day	Reaction Greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No Local Reaction.	
1951	133	2	—	8	5	—	—	—	—
1950	120	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
1949	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1948	2	1	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
1947	4	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
1946	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
1945	3	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
1943	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
1941	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
1940	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
1939	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1938	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1937	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936 or earlier	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS....	288	8	2	10	101	29	31	5	—
					126	32	38	5	—

7. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Work under Section 27 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act has again mainly referred to the prevention of tuberculosis.

During the year the medical staff of the Health Department have felt it increasingly difficult to maintain the intimate contact with patients suffering from the disease, which used to be so easy before responsibility for treatment was separated from responsibility for prevention.

Incidence of the Disease.—On 45 occasions pulmonary tuberculosis was notified, and it was confirmed in respect of these notifications that 43 patients were suffering from the disease. There were 10 non-pulmonary notifications and 9 of these were confirmed.

Set forth below are particulars of the pulmonary cases classified according to Memorandum T.B. 3/1947.

A. 1 = 4.	B. 1 = 1.
A. 2 = 4.	B. 2 = 18.
A. 3 = 2.	B. 3 = 14.

A.—Those patients from whom Tubercle Bacilli have never been isolated.

B.—Those patients from whom Tubercle Bacilli have been isolated.

- 1.—Slight Lung involvement (early case).
- 2.—Moderate Lung involvement (intermediate case).
- 3.—Advanced Lung involvement (late case).

In 10 of the 43 notifications a close contact with a known case of tuberculosis was ascertained—the details are as follows :—

On 3 occasions ... a sister	} Family contact.
On 2 occasions ... a father	
On 1 occasion ... a brother-in-law	
On 1 occasion ... a husband	
On 1 occasion ... a nephew	
On 1 occasion ... a daughter	
On 1 occasion there was close contact with a known case at work.	

Of the 9 non-pulmonary cases 2 had close contact :—

A girl with tuberculosis of the knee—father.

A boy with tuberculous meningitis—an uncle.

There are at present 299 persons on the Tuberculosis Register, 244 of whom are in respect of respiratory disease. This represents a tuberculosis rate of 7 per thousand of the population (pulmonary rate is 5·8 per thousand of the population).

There were 14 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1951.

Contacts.—During the year the work of tracing contacts was continued and 255 came under review. This works out at approximately 5 per notified case (pulmonary and non-pulmonary).

Mantoux-Testing.—The particulars of the tuberculin testing of contacts is contained in the following table :—

	<i>Under 1.</i>		<i>1 and under 5.</i>		<i>5 and under 10.</i>		<i>10 and under 15.</i>		<i>15 and under 20.</i>		<i>20 and over.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Positive	2	1	1	5	6	6	8	9	3	2	—	1	20	24
Negative.....	9	10	17	20	9	11	2	7	—	—	—	—	37	48
Total.....	11	11	18	25	15	17	10	16	3	2	—	1	57	72

Housing.—During 1951, 14 houses were allocated exclusively to families in which there was a patient suffering from tuberculosis. In addition 5 families containing a patient suffering from tuberculosis were re-housed from the general list.

B.C.G.—During the year 71 contacts were vaccinated with B.C.G. The particulars are appended in the table which follows :—

<i>Group.</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested.</i>		<i>Negative Re-actors.</i>		<i>Successfully Vaccinated.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Contacts	57	72	37	48	34	37

During the year a scheme was submitted to the Department of Health for B.C.G. vaccination to be made available to the 13-year-old children before leaving school. Up to the end of the year this scheme had not been approved, but preliminary tuberculin testing during the year confirmed that in this Burgh the best age group to vaccinate would be the 12—14-year-olds. The following table sets forth the details of the tuberculin testing of school children up to the end of the year :—

Mantoux Tests.

	<i>5 and Under 10 Years.</i>		<i>10 Years and Over.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Negative.				
Bentinck School	—	—	—	1
Glencairn School	—	—	13	7
Grange School	—	—	13	12
James Hamilton School	—	—	38	51
Kilmarnock Academy	—	—	63	45
Loanhead School	—	—	—	1
	—	—	127	117
Positive.				
Bentinck School	—	—	3	—
Glencairn School	—	—	11	13
Grange School... ..	—	—	20	12
James Hamilton School	—	—	31	44
Kilmarnock Academy	—	—	65	62
Loanhead School	—	—	2	2
St. Joseph's High School	—	1	—	—
	—	1	132	133

Tuberculin Jelly Tests.

	5 and Under 10 Years.		10 Years and Over.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Negative.				
Bentinck School	86	90	8	6
Glencairn School	64	56	13	11
Grammar School	30	49	2	—
Grange School... ..	60	54	14	10
High Street School	24	24	—	—
Hillhead School	82	66	9	20
Kilmarnock Academy	11	9	3	2
Loanhead School	67	49	9	9
Riccarton School	46	32	—	—
St. Joseph's High School	66	69	3	—
	536	498	61	58
Positive				
Bentinck School	2	3	—	1
Glencairn School	5	3	—	2
Grammar School	2	1	—	—
Grange School... ..	5	2	1	2
High Street School	—	2	—	—
Hillhead School	14	10	2	1
Kilmarnock Academy	1	1	—	—
Loanhead School	5	3	2	—
Riccarton School	2	5	—	—
St. Joseph's High School	6	7	2	—
	42	37	7	6

X-Ray Diagnosis.—359 persons were referred by the Health Department for X-ray and 514 films were taken.

Mass Radiography.—Unfortunately it was found impossible to procure a visit of the Mass Radiography Unit during the year. As stated last year it would be of great assistance if we had a Unit of our own in Ayrshire.

Out-Patient Treatment.—During 1951, patients from this area have had to travel to the Central Hospital regularly for treatment as out-patients. It is hoped that before the end of another year the Consultative Clinic in the Out-Patient Department at Kilmarnock Infirmary will be ready for use.

It is with pleasure that we record the help received from the Tuberculosis Physician and his staff. In very many cases immediate admission to hospital has been arranged for patients from the Burgh, and in the few others there has been no undue waiting. As close co-operation as time and circumstances permit exists between the staff of the Health Department and the tuberculosis Clinicians.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary and Home Visiting.—

Dispensary—

Number who Attended ... 45. Number of Attendances ... 92

During the year the Health Visitors visited 30 new patients and also paid 564 subsequent visits, a total of 594.

Special Investigation—James Hamilton School.—The notifications of tuberculosis have been scrutinised for any that might have been in the heavily infected classes found in 1948, but no such case was found during the year.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Notifications (including those in respect of Tuberculosis) during 1951 297

Average Number of Notifications received during the years 1946-50 ... 198

Scarlet Fever.—Scarlet Fever has been rather more prevalent this year than in any year since 1939. There were 108 notifications, the greatest number being in October. A survey of the figures for Scarlet Fever in the Burgh of Kilmarnock over the past twenty-four years shows that there was an abrupt fall in the numbers just prior to the war, *i.e.*, 1938. The lowest ever figure was in 1940 with only 31 notifications, and the next lowest was in 1941 when only 44 were received. Whereas in the six years ending 1933, 1324 notifications were received, an average of 220 per annum, the number had fallen in the next six years to 1006, an average of 167 per annum. During the six years 1940-1945 only 392 notifications were received, an average of 65 per annum. In the 6 post-war years the number has not materially increased, being 476, with an average of 79 per annum. Over a period of twenty-one years the month of greatest incidence was October, and the month of lowest incidence was July. There has not been a death from Scarlet Fever since 1937.

Diphtheria.—For the second year in succession no case of Diphtheria was notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—Seven patients, all female, were notified during the year, the youngest being 1 year 5 months and the oldest 19 years 2 months. Details of the illnesses are as follows :—

<i>Sex.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Date of Notification</i>	<i>Part Affected.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
F.	3 years 8 months.	4/1/51	Right Side Body and Leg	Slight Paralysis.
F.	1 year 5 months.	12/1/51	Right Leg.	Slight Paralysis.
F.	6 years.	31/1/51	Face, Neck and Chest.	Moderate Paralysis.
F.	9 years.	7/2/51	—	Recovery.
F.	19 years 2 months.	23/3/51	Face, Neck, Body and Leg, both Sides.	Severe Paralysis.
F.	7 years 9 months.	3/5/51	Neck and Body, both Sides.	Moderate Paralysis.
F.	1 year 11 months.	19/5/51	Face and Body, Right Side.	Moderate Paralysis.

The following table gives particulars of the other infectious diseases during the year :—

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 and under 5</i>	<i>5 and under 15</i>	<i>15 and under 25</i>	<i>25 and under 35</i>	<i>35 and under 45</i>	<i>45 and under 65</i>	<i>65 and upwards</i>	<i>At all Ages.</i>
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery.....	—	2	—	—	—	2	5	1	10
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia, Acute Primary.....	5	6	5	—	2	—	2	5	25
Pneumonia.....	12	6	7	5	2	3	—	1	36
Puerperal Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough..	6	26	15	—	1	—	—	1	49
	23	41	27	6	5	6	9	10	127

Special Report made to Health Committee—Influenza.—It became obvious during the early weeks of the year that Influenza was becoming prevalent. In order to assess the magnitude of the problem :—

- (1) Information was requested from the Kilmarnock office of the Ministry of National Insurance. In this connection the number of new claims for sickness benefit for January was asked and to have a comparable figure the number for January, 1950, when Influenza was not prevalent, are included.

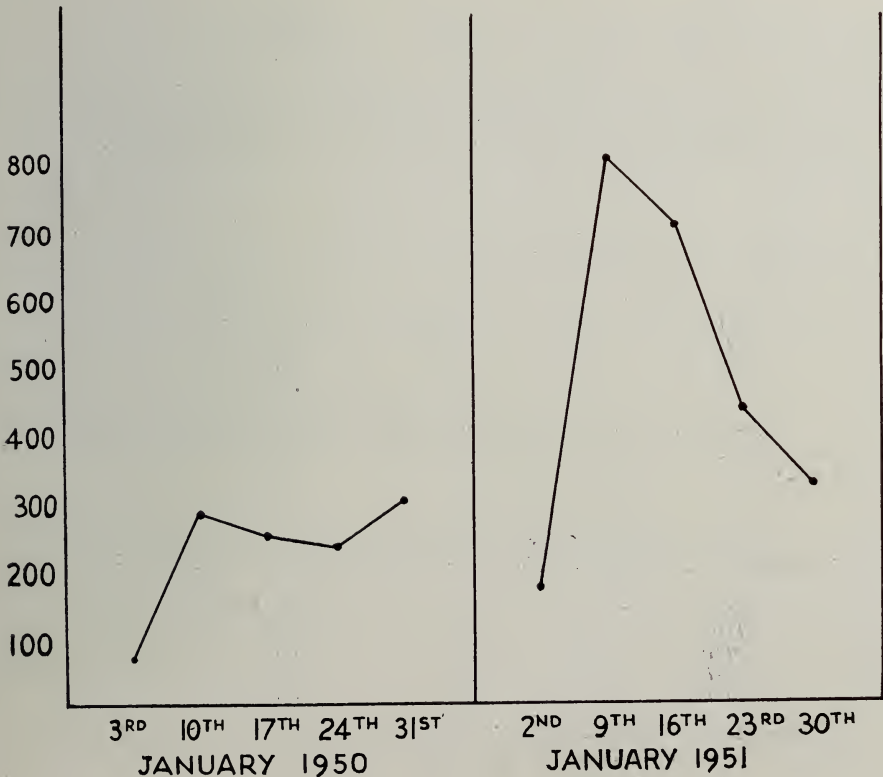
- (2) The notification of the Pneumonias is compared in the respective Januaries.
- (3) The deaths from the acute congestive diseases of the respiratory tract in the two periods are noted.
- (4) Enquiries at four large industrial concerns in the town were made regarding absenteeism.
- (5) The Education Authority was approached and figures for school absences are noted.
- (6) A description of the prevalent type of illness compiled from reports of doctors in general practice is appended.
- (7) In one case blood specimens were taken by a general practitioner (Dr. I.B.K. MacGregor) and sent to the Glasgow Virus Laboratory with negative results.

1. The following figures relate to each week in January in the years 1950 and 1951 :—

<i>Week ending.</i>	<u>1950.</u>	<i>Week ending.</i>	<u>1951.</u>
3rd	72	2nd	176
10th	283	9th	808
17th	252	16th	708
24th	232	23rd	432
31st	305	30th	322
	<u>1,144</u>		<u>2,446</u>

These figures relate to the Kilmarnock office of the Ministry which is not coterminous with the Burgh boundary although the great majority of the population served are within that boundary.

The appended graphs have been compiled from the above and show clearly that there has been a considerable divergence from the normal sickness figures in January, 1951 :—



2. In any outbreak of Influenza the number of cases of Pneumonia are increased. A number of these cases (though not all) are notified to the Health Department and so an outbreak should be reflected in the number of notifications. The following are the relevant figures :—

						1950	1951
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4	8
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
						4	10

3. Similarly the number of deaths from the acute respiratory diseases, as appended, show a definite increase in the later period :—

						1950	1951
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
						7	17

4. The following notes relate to the enquiries carried out at the before-mentioned industrial concerns :—

A. BOOT AND SHOE FACTORY.—In this concern employing over 1,100 persons the absentee figures set out week by week for the two months under consideration were as follows—

<i>Week ending.</i>					<i>Week ending.</i>				
7/1/50	...	...	...	25	5/1/51	...	...	...	62
14/1/50	...	...	...	25	12/1/51	...	...	...	74
21/1/50	...	...	...	26	19/1/51	...	...	...	63
28/1/50	...	...	...	24	26/1/51	...	...	...	56

Here on the average 30 more employees were off per day in January, 1951. In this case there is a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -day week. The absence rate rose from just about $\frac{1}{2}$ day per employee per month to $1\frac{1}{3}$ days. (There were about 400 men employed in this work and 700 women).

B. CARPET FACTORY.—Similar figures are appended for this factory. Here there was a 5-day week :—

<i>Week ending.</i>					<i>Week ending.</i>				
7/1/50	...	...	...	102	5/1/51	...	...	...	200
14/1/50	...	...	...	154	12/1/51	...	...	...	355
21/1/50	...	...	...	173	19/1/51	...	...	...	266
28/1/50	...	...	...	194	26/1/51	...	...	...	153

In January, 1951, there was on the average 14 more employees off per day or alternatively the sickness rate rose from $\frac{2}{3}$ of a day per employee per month to 1 day.

C. ENGINEERING WORKS.—Appended are the relative figures for this large concern employing over 2,000 workers. Here there was a 5-day week :—

<i>Week ending.</i>					<i>Week ending.</i>				
7/1/50	...	...	...	106	5/1/51	...	...	...	135
14/1/50	...	...	...	100	12/1/51	...	...	...	170
21/1/50	...	...	...	99	19/1/51	...	...	...	168
28/1/50	...	...	...	131	26/1/51	...	...	...	126

In this case there were on the average 28 more employees off per day. Another way of putting the matter is that whereas in January, 1950, absence amounted to roughly a day per employee, in 1951 it amounted to a day and a half per employee.

D. WHISKY MANUFACTURERS.—The figures here were :—

<i>Week ending.</i>				<i>Week ending.</i>			
7/1/50	...	...	17	5/1/51	...	...	36
14/1/50	...	...	23	12/1/51	...	...	45
21/1/50	...	...	25	19/1/51	...	...	54
28/1/50	...	...	25	26/1/51	...	...	46

Here the number at risk remained constant during the 2 years, 445 as compared with 446. There were in January, 1951, on the average 20 more persons absent each day. Instead of $1\frac{1}{4}$ days per person there were fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per person. Here again $5\frac{1}{2}$ days a week are worked.

The following table sets forth the initial sickness rate of each of the four firms as judged by January, 1950 figures. Alongside are the percentage figures for the employees of each group in three different age groups. In the last column are the increases presumably due to Influenza-like ailments in January, 1951 :—

	<i>Initial Sickness Rate. (Days per Month).</i>	<i>Under 18 Years.</i>	<i>18-45 Years.</i>	<i>Over 45 Years.</i>	<i>Increase. due to Influenza. (Days per Month).</i>
A.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	22.05	63.59	14.36	$\frac{5}{6}$
B.....	$\frac{2}{3}$	17.46	74.16	8.38	$\frac{1}{3}$
C.....	1	6.0	57.4	36.6	$\frac{1}{2}$
D.....	$1\frac{1}{4}$	7.2	58.9	33.9	$1\frac{1}{4}$

The initial rates vary almost inversely as the numbers in the early age group and no doubt age incidence is one of the factors contributing to the findings. It should also be borne in mind that A is the only one of the four firms where piece-work is found—not generally but in one or two of the departments. This would probably tend to diminish the sickness rate and partly explain the low incidence. In comparing firms C and D it is to be noted that age incidence is very similar; in the latter, however, there is a concession by which employees who are off get 40% of their wages in addition to the N.H.I benefit and this would undoubtedly lessen the financial hardship of an illness and might explain the higher rates in this firm.

A point of interest in connection with the low increases due to Influenza-like illness in firms B and C, is the fact that in these two works there is a Factory Medical Officer and doubtless many of the employees were reassured and given special advice and attention which might reasonably be expected to have kept them at work during the time of the outbreak when otherwise they might have gone off.

The following figures relate to School attendance. They are statements of percentages of pupils present at school :—

	<i>January, 1951.</i>	<i>January, 1950.</i>	<i>Difference.</i>
Park Special School	88.7	87.6	— 1
Kilmarnock Academy	89.6	94.01	+ 48
Bentnick School	86.1	92	+ 30
Glencairn School	84.4	90.2	+ 46
Grammar School	84.2	90.6	+ 26
Grange School...	85.6	89.4	+ 29
High Street School	88.5	91.3	+ 8
Loanhead School	82.5	91.9	+ 47
James Hamilton School...	85.1	90.2	+ 25
St. Joseph's High School	81.0	88.2	+ 86
Riccarton School	81.2	92.6	+ 20
Hillhead School	85.5	89.6	+ 23

+ 387

These figures may be interpreted in a number of ways. In all but Park Special School the number of absences was increased. Column 3 shows the average excess number of pupils off each day when compared with last January. It will be seen that 387 more pupils were absent from school each day in January, 1951, out of a school population of 6,957, or alternatively each pupil had the equivalent of rather more than 1 day's absence in January, 1951.

Description of Illness.

Onset with malaise, frontal headache, backache and pains in limbs. Often initial shivering; slight dryness of throat and unproductive cough. These latter symptoms are often lacking but if present may go on to Bronchitis.

Temperature 101-102 degrees, with increase of pulse to 80-90.

Most settle in 2-3 days with Sod. Salicyl. plus a linctus.

In a noticeable percentage, *i.e.*, 10 to 20%, symptoms of gastro-enteritis appeared—mostly enteritis. Few go on to pneumonia—not many deaths. Average duration of illness—1 week.

Summary.

A mild but troublesome outbreak of Influenza affected the inhabitants of the town during January. The highest incidence was in the second and third weeks. The distribution, as far as could be judged from the data available, was rather uneven and no adequate reason can be put forward for this finding. The deaths, which were greatly increased, were mainly in old people. There was no special incidence and high fatality in the younger adult age groups, such as was the case in the pandemic of 1918-19, and the epidemic occurring as it did in the Winter months followed the pattern of many others. Although the outbreak brought its problems and hospital accommodation and other services were for a time strained, they were adequate to cope with the incident.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Chickenpox continued to be frequent in the early months of the year. Cases of Mumps were still frequent in January then gradually became less so until a sharp rise took place in the Autumn. There was a considerable outbreak of German Measles in May and June.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases during 1951.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Chickenpox	65	23	2	3	—	1	—	—	2	3	3	8	110
Measles	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
German Measle	—	2	1	7	82	29	—	—	—	2	3	—	126
Mumps	22	8	3	8	17	4	—	—	1	26	39	7	135
Impetigo	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	9
Scabies	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6
Ringworm	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Venereal Diseases.—The Public Health Staff continued during the year to undertake, on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board, the treatment of patients in North Ayrshire who were suffering from these diseases, and the facilities for treatment remain unaltered. The number of new cases, in age and sex distribution, are set forth in the tables which follow. There has been a falling off in cases of proved infection, although the number of Non-Venereal cases attending has increased considerably during 1951. Approximately half of our patients come from outwith the Burgh.

Particulars of the work done are to be found in the tables which follow :—

Return of Cases Treated at Venereal Diseases Centres during 1951.

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Venereal Conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea.		Total Venereal.		Non-Venereal.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Number of New Cases Attending...	5	11	13	2	2	1	20	14	25	8
Total Attendances of all Cases	426	604	89	31	54	32	569	667	63	24
Number of Patients admitted for Indoor Treatment	5	5	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—
Number of Days' Residence	50	44	—	—	—	—	50	44	—	—

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases during 1951.

Age Group.		Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Venereal Conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea.		Total Venereal.		Non-Venereal.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1-4 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5-14 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
15-24 Years	...	...	4	4	2	1	...	5	6	10	...
25-34 Years	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	5	4	7	1
35 and over	...	5	3	4	...	1	...	10	3	8	3
ALL AGES	...	5	11	13	2	2	1	20	14	25	8

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

During 1951, 19 persons were examined under the Lunacy Acts. Of that number 9 males and 9 females, a total of 18, were certified and admitted to Mental Hospitals. Again all the male patients were admitted to Ayr District Mental Hospital as were 3 of the females. One female went to Hawkhead, one to Stoneyetts, one to Bellsdyke, one to Gartnavel and two to Hartwood.

The number of patients in Mental Hospitals under the Lunacy Acts on 31st December, 1951, was as under :—

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ayr District Mental Hospital	45	49	94
Bellsdyke Hospital	—	1	1
Stoneyetts	—	1	1
Total	45	51	96

One female certified patient was under guardianship at home.

At the end of 1951 the following mentally defective persons were in institutions :—

<i>Name of Institution.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dunlop House	2	9	11
Larbert Institution	1	—	1
St. Charles Institution	—	1	1
Waverley Park Institution	—	1	1
Windsor Park Institution	—	1	1
Kirklands Institution	—	1	1
Total	3	13	16
Number on Licence	—	1	1
Number under Guardianship	2	—	2
New Cases ascertained during the year ...	2	1	3

The position remains much as was reported last year, but at the end of the year steps were being taken to try to provide a more adequate service of out-patient clinics at which persons suffering from mental disturbances can attend for advice and treatment.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

This service is under the County Council, but the Burgh Medical Staffs are utilised in carrying out the work. A full report of the work done is to be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

It should be noted that during the year the following inspections took place :—

<i>Entrants.</i>	<i>R/9 Group.</i>	<i>R/12 Group.</i>	<i>R/15 Group.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Seven Years Vision Group.</i>	<i>Specials.</i>	<i>Total, including Specials.</i>
733	687	689	88	2197	402	157	2756

Re-Examination of Children previously found Defective :—

Treatment Completed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Receiving Treatment ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
On Waiting List for Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Condition Unchanged—Under Observation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43

School Clinic.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Number of Children Attended.</i>	<i>Number of Attendances.</i>
January.....	35	36
February.....	44	46
March.....	23	24
April.....	25	27
May.....	49	58
June.....	51	55
July.....	—	—
August.....	—	—
September.....	38	40
October.....	67	82
November.....	24	37
December.....	32	32
TOTAL.....	388	437

Eye Clinics.

<i>Number of Clinics held.</i>	<i>Number of Children Attended.</i>	<i>Number of Children who had Glasses Prescribed.</i>
32	302	159

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk.—For a detailed report on the Milk supply to the Burgh, reference should be made to the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In terms of Sections 20 and 21 of the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 139 samples of ordinary milk were examined, when none were found to be deficient in milk fats.

The following table sets forth some particulars of samples of graded milks :—

<i>No. of Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Grade of Milk.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>			
		<i>Chemical.</i>	<i>Bacterial.</i>	<i>Other Tests.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
25	Certified.....	—	—	—	—
107	Tuberculin Tested.....	—	13	—	13
80	Pasteurised	—	6	—	6
22	Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—	—
	Pasteurised	1	—	—	1
29	Heat Treated.....	—	—	—	—

In addition, 99 samples of milk were taken for the Inoculation test, each of which was satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Springhill Home.—This Home functioned usefully during the year. There were 14 admissions; the number of deaths was 6.

Registration and Inspection of Disabled or Old Persons' Homes (Section 37).—None.

Removals (Section 47).—In no instance was it found necessary to take proceedings under Section 47, persuasion being sufficient in all cases dealt with.

Care of Property (Section 48).—This is in the hands of the Social Welfare Department.

Burials (Section 50).—Five burials were carried out by the Social Welfare Department.

Welfare Services (Section 29).—These are not carried out by this Department.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

In the Report of the Sanitary Inspector the question of atmospheric pollution is dealt with. From a health point of view it may be perfectly true to say that the smoke nuisance from the domestic fireplace is more irritating to the lungs of the population than that from factory chimneys. It is, however, most obvious to those who have eyes to see, that it is the smoke produced in mass which is most of a heartbreak to the woman who has her washing to consider.

If the Government are really serious on this question of cleaning up the atmosphere then one would expect them to see to it that nationalised industries and concerns would make every attempt possible to eliminate smoke. It is well-known in Kilmarnock that the Electricity Authority are aware of the complaints which have been levelled at them during past years and that they are trying to remedy matters. Similarly, the Gas undertaking does not cause a great deal of comment. It is, however, otherwise with the British Railways, where it would appear that more could be done to prevent the gross atmospheric pollution caused daily by this country-wide concern.

WATER SUPPLY.

For particulars of water examinations the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector should be consulted.

During the year the Health Committee had before them for discussion on a number of occasions the question of the advisability of an addition of fluorine, in an attempt to combat dental decay, especially in young children. In June, 1951, the Health Committee agreed in principle and referred the matter to the Water Committee, who agreed for their interest. The Committee's decisions were confirmed by Council in November.

At the end of the year samples of the two water supplies were being taken at monthly intervals to determine the natural fluorine content, and an attempt was being made to collect data about the present state of the teeth of the child population. An approach to various local industrial concerns was to be considered in the coming months.

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections.

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Number on Register.</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>Written Notices.</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	74	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	224	60	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' Premises) ...	10	—	—	—
TOTAL	308	60	8	—

Particulars of the Defects which were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	10	9	—	10	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	13	—	15	—

100

100